

Reply to Office Action of November 9, 2006

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1-6. (Canceled)

7. (Previously Presented) A tub cover configured to be mounted on a top of an outer tub of a washing machine for preventing noise and foam overflow, the tub cover comprising:

an upper tub cover configured to be fastened to the outer tub; and  
a lower tub cover positioned under the upper tub cover spaced therefrom and fastened to the upper tub cover by at least one height adjusting member configured to adjust a space between the upper tub cover and the lower tub cover, thereby forming washing water passages that are adjustable by adjusting the space between the upper tub cover and the lower tub cover.

8. (Previously Presented) A tub cover configured to be mounted on a top of an outer tub of a washing machine for preventing noise and foam overflow, the tub cover comprising:

an upper tub cover configured to be fastened to the outer tub; and

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a lower tub cover configured to be positioned under the upper tub cover spaced therefrom and configured to be fastened to the upper tub cover, thereby forming washing water passages between the upper tub cover and the lower tub cover, wherein the upper tub cover comprises:

an upper surface portion of a substantially annular form;  
a tight fit portion projected in up and down direction from an outer circumference of the upper surface portion for tight fit to a top portion of the outer tub; and  
a fastening portion extended from the tight fit portion in a horizontal direction for fastening to a top end of the outer tub, and wherein the lower tub cover comprises:

an upper surface portion of a substantially annular form;  
a vertical portion projected downwardly from an outer end of the upper surface portion; and

at least one height adjustment member fitted on the upper surface portion for maintaining a space between the upper tub cover and the lower tub cover.

9. (Previously Presented) The tub cover as claimed in claim 8, wherein the at least one height adjustment member is formed between an inner circumference and an outer circumference of the upper surface portion of the upper tub cover.

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10. (Previously Presented) A tub cover configured to be mounted on a top of an outer tub of a washing machine for preventing noise and foam overflow, the tub cover comprising:

an upper tub cover configured to be fastened to the outer tub; and

an upper surface portion of substantially annular form;

a lower tub cover configured to be positioned under the upper tub cover spaced therefrom and configured to be fastened to the upper tub cover, thereby forming washing water passages between the upper tub cover and the lower tub cover, wherein the upper tub cover comprises:

a tight fit portion projected in up and down direction from an outer circumference of the upper surface portion for tight fit to a top portion of the outer tub; and

a fastening portion extended from the tight fit portion in a horizontal direction for fastening to a top end of the outer tub, and wherein the lower tub cover comprises:

a vertical portion projected downwardly from an outer end of the upper surface portion, wherein there are a plurality of guide members in a space between the upper tub cover and the lower tub cover for dividing washing water flow passages at fixed intervals and guiding the washing water.

11. (Previously Presented) The tub cover as claimed in claim 10, wherein the upper surface portion of the upper tub cover and the upper surface portion of the lower tub cover have a predetermined curvature.

12. (Previously Presented) The tub cover as claimed in claim 11, wherein the vertical portion in the lower tub cover is spaced a predetermined distance from an outer diameter of a balancer on a top of the inner tub.

13. (Previously Presented) The tub cover as claimed in claim 10, wherein a vertical portion of the upper tub cover is formed shorter or longer than a vertical portion of the lower tub cover.

14. (Previously Presented) The tub cover as claimed in claim 10, wherein the guide member comprises:

a regular direction guide member having a predetermined curvature; and  
style="padding-left: 40px;">a reverse direction guide member disposed opposite to the regular direction guide member and having a predetermined curvature.

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15. (Previously Presented) The tub cover as claimed in claim 10, further including washing water draining device configured to permit the washing water splashed to the upper surface portion of the upper tub cover to flow into the inner tub.

16. (Previously Presented) The tub cover as claimed in claim 15, wherein the washing water draining device comprises a plurality of sloped flow passages sloped downwardly in an inward radial direction formed on the upper surface portion of the upper tub cover at fixed intervals.

17. (Previously Presented) The tub cover as claimed in claim 15, wherein the washing water draining device comprises:

a plurality of drain holes formed at an outer circumference of the upper surface portion of the upper tub cover at fixed intervals; and

a plurality of sloped flow passages formed on the upper surface portion of the lower tub cover at positions corresponding to the drain holes and sloped downwardly in an inward radial direction.

18. (Previously Presented) The tub cover as claimed in claim 15, wherein the washing water draining device is formed by sloping the upper surface portion of the upper tub cover downwardly in an inward radial direction.

19-20. (Canceled)

21. (Currently Amended) A tub cover configured to be mounted on a top of an outer tub of a washing machine, the tub cover comprising:

an upper tub cover configured to be fastened to the outer tub; and  
a lower tub cover in the form of a substantially annular ring with a centrally located opening configured to be positioned under the upper tub cover spaced therefrom and configured to be fastened to the upper tub cover, thereby forming at least one washing water passage between the upper tub cover and the lower tub cover, wherein the upper tub cover and the lower tub cover are similar in shape, and wherein the at least one washing water passage guides washing water to the centrally located opening and into an inner tub of the washing machine.

22. (Previously Presented) The tub cover as claimed claim 21, wherein both the upper tub cover and the lower tub portion each comprise an upper surface portion and a vertical portion projected in an up and down direction from an outer circumference of the upper surface portion.

23. (Previously Presented) The tub cover as claimed in claim 21, wherein the upper tub cover and the lower tub cover are fastened together by at least one height adjusting member.

24. (Previously Presented) The tub cover as claimed in claim 23, wherein the at least one height adjusting member extends from either the upper tub cover or the lower tub cover.

25. (Previously Presented) The tub cover as claimed in claim 24, wherein the at least one height adjusting member extends from the upper tub cover.

26. (Previously Presented) The tub cover as claimed in claim 24, wherein the at least one height adjusting member extends from the lower tub cover.

27. (Currently Amended) A tub cover for a washing machine, comprising:  
an upper cover configured to be fastened to an outer tub; and  
a lower cover in the form of a substantially annular ring with a centrally located opening configured to be positioned under the upper cover spaced therefrom and configured to be fastened to the upper cover, thereby forming at least one washing water passage between the upper cover and the lower cover, wherein the at least one washing water passage guides washing water to the centrally located opening and into an inner tub of the washing machine.

28. (Previously Presented) The tub cover as claimed in claim 27, wherein the upper and lower covers are positioned at a top of the outer tub.

29. (Previously Presented) The tub cover as claimed in claim 27, wherein the upper cover is configured to be fastened to a top portion of the outer tub.

30. (Previously Presented) The tub cover as claimed in claim 27, wherein the lower cover is spaced from an inner tub.

31. (Previously Presented) The tub cover as claimed in claim 27, wherein the at least one washing water passage is configured to allow the washing water in the outer tub to flow into an inner tub.